ZONES







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Zones Opens First Technology Innovation Center in Chicagoland Corporate Headquarters

Grand Opening Celebration Included Facility Tour Highlighting Real-World Technology Applications for Retail, Healthcare, Education, Manufacturing

Auburn, WA — June 6, 2025 — Last month, <u>Zones</u>, a global provider of end-to-end IT solutions, celebrated the grand opening of the **Zones Innovation Center** in Carol Stream, IL. Located at the <u>Zones Chicagoland Corporate Headquarters</u>, the addition of the Zones Innovation Center marks a major milestone in the company's mission to drive digital transformation for clients across industries.

The May 21, 2025 event brought together hundreds of employees, technology partners, customers and community leaders--including the Carol Stream Mayor and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce—for a ribbon cutting ceremony and guided tours showcasing the technology applications and 208,000 square foot warehousing/distribution center. Guests explored the 17,500 square feet of integration space, 14,000 square feet dedicated to special project handling, and viewed ongoing construction to further expand the facility in the coming months.

View slideshow from Zones Innovation Grand Opening

What is the Zones Innovation Center?

The Zones Innovation Center offers a collaborative, controlled environment where businesses can simulate, test, and refine emerging technologies before full-scale deployment. It acts as a real-world sandbox to help organizations resolve IT challenges in a risk-free setting. Featuring collaborative IT labs, expert consultations, and access to premier technology partners, the Zones Innovation Center is designed to serve as an R&D extension and innovation hub for Zones clients.

"The launch of our Zones Innovation Center in Carol Stream marks a bold new chapter in our journey," said Firoz Lalji, Chairman and CEO of Zones. "This isn't just a facility—it's a launchpad for progress." He added, "This center represents our unwavering commitment to empowering organizations to think bigger, move faster, and lead with confidence in a constantly evolving digital world."

"Since Zones opened its doors in Carol Stream in 2012, it has been a crown jewel of innovation and job creation in our community," said Carol Stream Mayor Frank Saverino. "The Innovation Center tour was both exciting and inspiring—it's clear that Zones is actively shaping the future of IT."

"We're thrilled to welcome the addition of the Zones Innovation Center to Carol Stream," added Jane Hove, CEO, Chamber of Commerce for Carol Stream. "Having a forward-thinking, tech-driven company right here in our community is exciting and a great addition to our business community. We're looking forward to seeing how it helps local companies grow and explore new tech solutions, too."

Technology Simulations on Display

Attendees had the opportunity to explore fully interactive demonstrations across Zones' key focus areas:

- **Retail:** Featuring electronic shelf labels and Meraki environmental monitoring, this showcase demonstrates modern tools to enhance retail environments and improve operational efficiency.
- Healthcare: Focused on telehealth and remote patient monitoring, this exhibit highlights solutions
 that improve clinical outcomes, streamline care delivery, and support HIPAA-compliant virtual
 care.
- **Sustainability:** Demonstrating the integration of Al-driven data governance and energy-efficient infrastructure, this space shows how organizations can reduce environmental impact without compromising performance.
- Education & Manufacturing: With zero-touch deployment and digital locker technology on display, this simulation illustrates how educational institutions can improve collaboration, asset management, and security through digital transformation.

Zones' Four Business Practices Incorporated into ZIC

This Zones Innovation Center specializes in <u>four specialized business practices</u>, which are critical to modern IT infrastructure:

- **Cloud & Data Center** Tailored infrastructure, cloud migration, and data protection solutions aligned with business goals.
- **Digital Workplace** End-to-end services that power secure, immersive, and collaborative environments, including device management, SaaS, and VDI.
- **Networking** Intelligent network modernization strategies designed to maximize connectivity and efficiency.
- **Security** Advanced cybersecurity solutions spanning assessment, implementation, management, and incident response.

The Zones Innovation Center also explores emerging technologies such as **artificial intelligence (AI)**, **machine learning (ML)**, **intelligent automation**, and **predictive analytics**, empowering clients to test and refine next-generation solutions.

A Hub for Collaboration

Zones' strategic partnerships are a central part of the Innovation Center experience. Visitors can explore and engage with technologies from leading brands including, Apple, AWS, Capsa Healthcare, Cisco, Dell Technologies, Elo, Honeywell, Expeditors International of Washington, HP Inc., Intel, LG Business Solutions, Lenovo, Jabra, Logitech, Microsoft, Palo Alto Networks, Samsung, Veeam Vertiv, Zebra and more.

About The Zones Chicagoland Corporate Headquarters

Located within 30 miles of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, Zones Chicagoland Corporate Headquarters is a high-tech hub dedicated to end-to-end technology deployments. With extensive warehousing, configuration, and project handling capabilities, the facility enables rapid, complete IT rollouts with precision.

Inside is an ecosystem where customers, engineers and partners come together to co-develop solutions in real-time. With state-of-the-art technology seamlessly integrated throughout the office, Zones is not just a place of work but an immersive, hands-on environment designed to help organizations confidently embrace the technologies that will define the future of their industries.

About Zones

A global provider of end-to-end IT solutions and managed services, Zones is backed by an unmatched supply chain and more than 35 years as a certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE). Operating in over 150 countries, Zones delivers complete IT Lifecycle Services that cover every stage of technology—from strategic planning and procurement through deployment, management, optimization, and secure retirement. This lifecycle expertise amplifies Zones' robust portfolio across its business practices, which include Cloud & Data Center, Digital Workplace, Networking and Security. Powered by the highest partner certifications with Microsoft, Apple, Cisco, Lenovo, Adobe, and more, Zones has mastered the science of building and sustaining digital infrastructures that transform how modern organizations do business.

Lead with Zones: Visit <u>Zones Innovation Center</u>, <u>zones.com</u>, <u>blog. Zones</u> or follow us on <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, and <u>LinkedIn</u>.

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